

Remarks

The courtesy afforded the applicants' representative by Examiner Elisca at the interview on January 21, 2004 is acknowledged with thanks. At the interview, applicants' representative discussed claim 11 (31) and explained why this claim was distinguishable from the applied reference. Specifically, and as explained more completely below, applicants' representative noted that the reference does not disclose or suggest that the information processing system generate first confidential information that is transmitted via a first transmission support and that is then received back at the information processing system via a second transmission support for verification. In contrast, the reference transforms the confidential information in personal unit 20 (Figure 1) so that the information being transmitted back for verification is not the same as the original information.

Claims 11-21 (31-41) were rejected as anticipated by JONSSON WO 96/00485. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 11 (31) includes the steps of transmitting, by the information processing system, the first confidential information via a first transmission support, receiving, by the information processing system, the first confidential information from a second transmission support different from the first

transmission support, and verifying the first confidential information by the information processing system. In other words, the information processing system (40 in Figure 1 of the present application, for example) transmits the confidential information on one transmission support (20) and receives the same confidential information on a second transmission support (10) for verification.

JONSSON discloses a system that does not receive the same confidential information back for verification. With reference to Figure 1 of JONSSON, a request for service is sent from terminal 22 to service node 26/authentication center 30, which then generates a challenge code that is transmitted to personal unit 20 via a first transmission support (network 28) (page 9, lines 2-8). The personal unit 20 transforms the challenge code into a response code with an algorithm that also needs a PIN or other personal information input by the user (page 8, lines 12-24). Thus, the response code is not the same as the challenge code. The personal unit transmits the response code through terminal 22 via network 24 to the service node 26/authentication center 30, where the response code is verified (page 9, lines 26-30). The service node 26/authentication center 30 knows the algorithm in the personal unit 20 and the PIN of the user and thus is able to reproduce the response code for the verification (page 10, lines 1-5).

Since the response code is transformed by the algorithm and PIN at the personal unit 20 and is not the same as the challenge code, JONSSON does not disclose or suggest the steps of transmitting, by the information processing system, the first confidential information via a first transmission support, receiving, by the information processing system, the first confidential information from a second transmission support different from the first transmission support, and verifying the first confidential information by the information processing system. Accordingly, claim 11 (31) avoids the rejection under §102.

Claim 19 (39) is directed to the equivalent device expressed in means-plus-function terminology and is allowable for the same reasons as claim 11 (31).

Claim 21 (41) includes slightly different language but is allowable for the same reasons as claim 11 (31). JONSSON does not disclose or suggest the steps of transferring the first confidential information from the second terminal to the first terminal, sending the first confidential information from the first terminal to the information processing system via the first communication network, and verifying at the information processing system that the first confidential information received via the first communication network is the same as the

first confidential information transmitted via the second communication network.

Claim 14 (34) is a dependent claim that is allowable for additional reasons. JONSSON does not disclose or suggest generating second confidential information, supplying the second confidential information to user on a third transmission support, receiving at the information processing system the second confidential information on a fourth transmission support, and verifying the second confidential information by the information processing system. As explained above, the response code is not the same as the challenge code and thus there is no suggestion in the reference to use the same second confidential information for verification.

The Official Action renumbered the claims as claims 11-21. However, as pointed out in the previous response, the original application included claims 1-29 (in French) and a preliminary amendment filed with the application added claim 30 (also in French), canceled claims 2-3, 5-9 and 28-29, and amended claims 11-18, 20-23 and 25. The later filed translation included claims 1-30 in English. A Further Preliminary Amendment filed on November 12, 2000 canceled claims 1, 4, 10-27 and 30 and added new claims 31-40, leaving claims 31-40 in the application at that time. Claim 41 was added in the last amendment. Thus, it is believed that the correct claim numbering is as set forth above

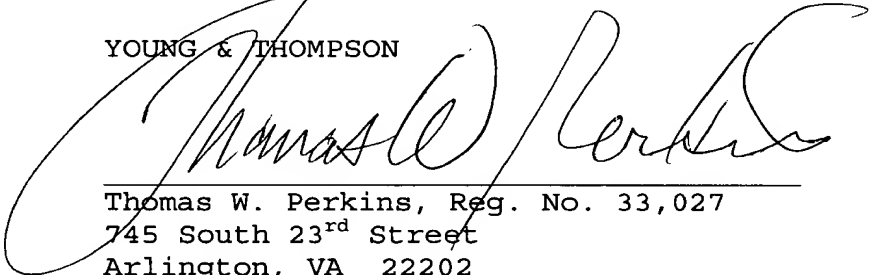
in the listing of claims. The Official Action did not address applicants' comments in this regard and it is not clear why the claims were renumbered.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Perkins', is written over the printed name and address.

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